



NEWS RELEASE

PRESS OFFICE

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"A SALUTE TO SMALL BUSINESS"
NOMINATIONS FOR 2006 SMALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR
AND SMALL BUSINESS CHAMPION AWARDS

Each year during National Small Business Week, the U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA) recognizes outstanding small business owners for their contribution to the American economy and society. SBA is currently accepting nominations for the 2006 Small Business of the Year Award for Central California and for several "Champion Award" categories. The Fresno SBA Office services the fifteen Central California counties. Trade associations, chambers of commerce and business organizations frequently sponsor candidates. A business owner may also nominate themselves or other candidates.

Nomination criteria and deadline dates for all award categories can be found by visiting the SBA website at www.sba.gov/nominationsguideline.html or by contacting Melende Ward of the Fresno SBA Office at (559) 487-5791, ext 143.

All nominees must be residents of and employed in the United States and will be subject to background checks. Small businesses owned and operated by nominees must comply with federal civil rights laws.

This is a wonderful opportunity to recognize an individual or an organization dedicated to the support of the small business community. Please send all nominations to the U. S. Small Business Administration, 2719 N. Air Fresno Drive, Suite 200, Fresno, California, 93727, Attn: Melende Ward.

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